

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims are not amended, but merely set forth here for convenient reference.

Kindly replace the claims as follows.

28. (Previously presented) A method comprising the steps of:

at a computer system, receiving a first order from a first party, in which the first order indicates a first spread with which to make a market for a financial instrument and a second spread at which to make a market for the financial instrument, and in which the first order includes an acceptance by the first party to participate in the market at the first spread and an acceptance by the first party to make a market at the second spread if the second party accepts the command;

at the computer system, receiving a second command from the second party, in which the second command comprises at least one of an acceptance of the first spread and an acceptance of the second spread;

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread, requiring the first party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument at a price reflecting the first spread, and

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread, requiring the second party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument at a price reflecting the second spread.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28:

wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and

further comprising the step of blocking the first party from participating in a market if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28:
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and
further comprising the step of charging a fee to the first party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28:
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread and
further comprising the step of automatically entering a default trading command from the first party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the first market is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the first spread and the second spread are the same.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread and the method further comprises:
requiring the second party to submit a fourth command indicating that the first market for the financial instrument should be made with the first spread.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, in which the fourth command includes an indication of a price around which the first market is should be made.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein:
the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread; and
requiring the second party to submit the third command includes charging a fee to the second party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the second market is not received from the second party within a limited period of time.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread and requiring the second party to submit the third command includes

automatically entering a default trading command from the second party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the tradeable item through the second market is not received from the second party within a limited period of time.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread and requiring the second party to submit the third command includes blocking the second party from participating in a market if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the second market is not received from the second party within a limited period of time.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread and the method further comprises:

requiring the first party to submit a fourth command indicating that the second market for the financial instrument should be made using the second spread.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, in which the fourth command includes an indication of a price around which the second market should be made.

40. (previously presented) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by one or more computers, cause one or more computer systems to perform a method comprising the steps of

receiving a first order from a first party, in which the first order indicates a first spread with which to make a market for a financial instrument and a second spread at which to make a market for the financial instrument, and in which the first order includes an acceptance by the first party to participate in the market at the first spread and an acceptance by the first party to make a market at the second spread if the second party accepts the command; and

at the computer system, receiving a second command from the second party, in which the second command comprises at least one of an acceptance of the first spread and an acceptance of the second spread;

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread, requiring the first party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument at a price reflecting the first spread, and

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread, requiring the second party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument at a price reflecting the second spread.

41. (Previously presented) The computer readable memory of claim 40 :
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and
further comprising instructions to cause the computer(s) to block the first party from participating in a market if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

42. (Previously presented) The computer readable memory of claim 40:
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and
further comprising instructions to cause the computer(s) to charge a fee to the first party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

43. (Previously presented) The computer readable memory of claim 40:
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and
further comprising instructions to cause the computer(s) to automatically enter a default trading command from the first party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the first market is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

44. (Previously presented) The computer readable memory of claim 40, wherein the fourth command includes an indication of a price around which the first market should be made.

45. (Previously presented) The computer readable memory of claim 40:
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread; and
further comprising instructions to cause the computer(s) to require the first party to submit a fourth command indicating that the second market for the financial instrument should be made using the second spread.

46. (Previously presented) The computer readable memory of claim 40, wherein:
the fourth command includes an indication of a price around which the second market should be made.